

REMARKS

Applicants first wish to thank the Examiner for her time and consideration involved in examining the application. Claims 12, 15-17, 19, and 20 have been amended.

Applicants wish to point out an error contained in the Amendment filed on July 6, 2006 in response to the official action of April 7, 2006. In the official action, the Examiner rejected claims 12-20 under § 103(a) based on U.S. Pat. App. Pub. 2004/0050345 to Bauer (“Bauer”) and further in view of U.S. Pat. App. Pub. 2003/0200742 to Smaling (“Smaling”). Applicants responded to this rejection by stating the subject application (i.e., U.S. Serial No. 10/692,840), Bauer, and Smaling were, at the time the invention of the subject patent application was made, owned by ArvinMeritor, Inc. This is partially incorrect because these three are actually owned by Arvin Technologies, Inc., which is a wholly owned subsidiary and under the control of ArvinMeritor, Inc. Therefore, Bauer, Smaling, and the invention of the subject application **are still deemed to have been owned by the same entity** at the time of invention of that contained in the subject patent application, and thus Bauer and Smaling are disqualified from being used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) against the claims of the subject patent application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS BASED ON § 102 - DANIEL

In the official action, the Examiner rejected claims 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 7,014,930 to Daniel et al. (“Daniel”).

A. The Rejection of Claim 12

The Examiner alleges that claim 12 is anticipated by Daniel. Claim 12 has been amended to include limitations not disclosed in Daniel. For example, amended claim 12 contains limitations directed towards a plasma fuel reformer having a soot trap that filters reformatte gas

prior to delivery of the reformate gas to the component being supplied the reformate gas (e.g., an emission abatement device or an internal combustion engine). Daniel does not disclose a soot trap filtering reformate gas produced by a plasma fuel reformer prior to the gas reaching any such devices. Therefore, Daniel fails to disclose all of the limitations included in amended claim 12. As such, the amendments to claim 12 have rendered the Examiner's rejection moot.

B. The Rejections of Claims 13-17

Claims 13-17 are dependent upon claim 12. As a result, the rejections of claims 13-17 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed in regard to claim 12.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER § 103 - DANIEL

In the official action, the Examiner rejected claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over Daniel. Claims 19 and 20 are dependent on claim 12. As a result, the rejections of claims 19 and 20 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed in regard to claim 12.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited.

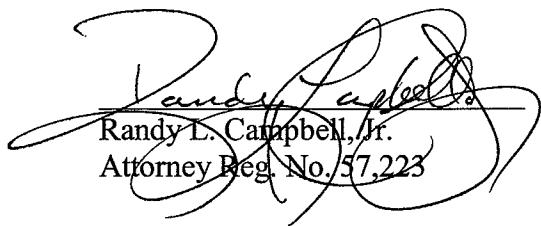
In the event that there are any questions related to this response in particular, or to the application in general, the undersigned would appreciate the opportunity to address those questions directly in a telephone interview to expedite the prosecution of this application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 with reference to file 9501-71831.

Respectfully submitted,

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